

## ABSTRACT

A method for locating neighbor objects of a query object in a database. A query tile set is defined including a plurality of tiles that define an initial query radius that the query object is grouped within. Neighbor objects are located within the initial query radius. A number of neighbor objects within the initial query radius is determined. The query radius is expanded  
5 beyond the initial query radius by defining an expanded query tile set beyond the query tile set if the number of neighbor objects is less than a target number. Neighbor objects are located within the expanded query radius. It is determined whether a number of neighbor objects within the expanded radius corresponds to a target number. The query radius is expanded and neighbor objects located within the expanded radius until the number of neighbor objects equals or  
10 exceeds the target number.